

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 615
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ashley McElhiney on her outstanding basketball career.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee and the members of this General Assembly take great pride in the accomplishments of those inspirational athletes who hail from Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such athlete is Ashley Reneé McElhiney of Gleason, Tennessee, who proved herself to be the best point guard in the history of the Vanderbilt University Women's Basketball Program; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McElhiney's success in the realm of college basketball was definitely foreshadowed by her dominance in Tennessee high school basketball where she led her Gleason High School basketball squad to the Tennessee Class A State Tournament both her junior and senior years and won the Class A State Championship in 1999 while being named Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, Ashley was named Miss Basketball for Class A in 1999, *USA Today* 1999 Tennessee Player of the Year, 1999 Gatorade Tennessee Player of the Year, 1999 Street & Smith All-American, and Associated Press All State First Team for both 1998 and 1999; and

SJR0615

00755336

WHEREAS, Ashley McElhiney, or "Mac" as Commodore fans have come to know her, is a tenacious warrior on the basketball court, with a fiery intensity and focus that sparked her team to four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances and the 2002 SEC Tournament Championship; and

WHEREAS, always answering the call and giving 100%, the gritty guard set a Vanderbilt school record for complete games played, 38, thereby establishing her reputation as one of the toughest competitors to ever wear any Commodore uniform; and

WHEREAS, referred to by women's basketball legend Nancy Lieberman as a "general...(who) is smart and tough as nails" Ashley directed the action on court by setting the Vanderbilt school record for career assists, 673, becoming the only Commodore --male or female--to record over 600 assists including 17 in one game; and

WHEREAS, Mac, wearing her beloved number 22 jersey with the sleeves rolled up, became the 22nd Commodore to join the 1,000 point club by nailing her third McElhiney-signature-length three point shot during the first half of the February 6, 2003, clash with the University of Alabama; she scored 1,093 points during her career; and

WHEREAS, a leader among her peers, Ashley McElhiney has also received numerous Southeastern Conference awards, including being named to the Southeastern Conference Second Team in 2002 and the All-Tournament Team in 2001; she also led the Southeastern Conference in assists with a 7.46 game average, and holds second place in the nation in that same category; and

WHEREAS, Ashley McElhiney won a Gold Medal while proudly representing her country as a member of the United States World University Games basketball team in China in 2001; and

WHEREAS, widely recognized as one of the best athletes in the country, Ashley was named to the 2003 Senior CLASS Award All-America Team, honorable mention on the 2002-03 Womenscollegehoops.com All-America Team, an ESPN.com Point Guard Top 5 honoree, one

of twelve finalists for the Nancy Lieberman Point Guard Award in 2002 and 2003, an Associated Press All-Southeastern Conference Third Team Selection in 2003 and Second Team Selection in 2002, and a 2002 *Basketball Times* Third Team All-American; and

WHEREAS, basketball fans were thrilled when Ms. McElhiney was selected as the 35th pick in the Women's National Basketball Association 2003 draft by the Indiana Fever; and

WHEREAS, Ashley has recently accepted a position as an assistant with the women's basketball program at Ohio State University, reuniting her with former mentor, Coach Jim Foster, which will undoubtedly be the beginning of a legendary coaching career; and

WHEREAS, she enjoys the support of her biggest fans, her loving family: parents Sandra and Danny McElhiney and sister Kellie Sims; and

WHEREAS, her success both on the court and off is truly indicative of the highly successful future that awaits Ashley McElhiney; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to Ashley McElhiney for her remarkable achievements and athletic prowess; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Ashley McElhiney on her many achievements and awards, salute her dedication to athletics and academics, and wish her the best in her every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.